

## "O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee"

by Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

1. Lord, how shall I meet Thee,  
How welcome Thee aright?  
Thy people long to greet Thee,  
My Hope, my heart's Delight!  
kindle, Lord, most holy,  
Thy lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please Thee best.
2. Thy Zion strews before Thee  
Green boughs and fairest palms,  
And I, too, will adore Thee  
With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For Thee with praises new  
And from Thy name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.
3. I lay in fetters, groaning,  
Thou com'st to set me free;  
I stood, my shame bemoaning,  
Thou com'st to honor me;  
A glory Thou dost give me,  
A treasure safe on high,  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.
4. Love caused Thy incarnation,  
Love brought Thee down to me;  
Thy thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
love beyond all telling,  
That led Thee to embrace,  
In love all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race!
5. Rejoice, then, ye sad-hearted,  
Who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed

And tremble at your doom.  
Despair not, He is near you,  
Yea, standing at the door,  
Who best can help and cheer you  
And bids you weep no more.

6. Ye need not toil nor languish  
Nor ponder day and night  
How in the midst of anguish  
Ye draw Him by your might.  
He comes, He comes all willing,  
Moved by His love alone,  
Your woes and troubles stilling;  
For all to Him are known.
  7. Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Let not your souls distress;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for men procuring  
The peace of sin forgiven,  
For all God's sons securing  
Their heritage in heaven.
  8. What though the foes be raging,  
Heed not their craft and spite;  
Your Lord, the battle waging,  
Will scatter all their might.  
He comes, a King most glorious,  
And all His earthly foes  
In vain His course victorious  
Endeavor to oppose.
  9. He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A Light of consolations  
And blessed Hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
Glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Thy beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.
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Notes:

Hymn #58 from *The Handbook to The Lutheran Hymnal*

Text: Matt. 21: 1-9

Author: Paul Gerhardt, 1653, cento

Translated by: composite

Titled: Wie soll ich dich empfangen

Composer: Melchior Teschner, 1613

Tune: Valet will ich dir geben

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